Claim summary

There have been 17 claims in the application.

Claims 1- 5, 7, 8 and 12 - 15 are cancelled.

Claims 6,9, 11 and 16 are amended herewith.

Claim 17 is presented in process format as a new claim.

Claim 10 is unchanged and is as when the application was filed.

For convenience claim 10 is as follows:

10. The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least one braid of copper wires.

In this submission: in section "A" amendments are advanced to complete the limiting of the claims to the handling of mercury spillage through a high surface area deformable absorber with a gold coating , and a new claim is added that is in the process type format; in section "B" each claim is correlated with the locations in the specification and drawings. A copy of the drawing is included for convenience as "C". A discussion is provided directed to distinguishing the invention over the art and the pointing out of patentability over the art.

The remaining claims for this continued examination are 6, 9 - 11, 16 and new claim 17.

The following amending, instructions, and clean copy, is to achieve the purpose of limiting the claims to the handling of mercury spillage with a tool that has a high surface area deformable absorber with a gold coating; and a process type new claim is advanced. Approval is asked.

Kindly amend Claim 6 to specify that the spilled material is mercury and the coating is gold as follows.

line 1 erase the cross hatched " ~~material~~" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined -mercury-

line 2 erase the cross hatched " ~~material~~" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined -mercury-

line 6 erase the cross hatched " a ~~material~~ having a high affinity for said spilled material" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined -gold-.

A clean copy of amended claim 6 is as follows.

6. In the transferring of spilled mercury through the use of an intermediate absorber member for the spilled mercury,
the improvement comprising:
a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of particles and a filamentry arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated with a thin coating of gold.

Cancel claims 7 and 8.

Amend claim 9 as follows:

Claim 9 line 1 erase the cross hatched "~~8~~" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined -6-.

A clean copy of amended claim 9 is as follows:

9. The improvement of claim 6 wherein the material in said deformable absorber are of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.

Amend Claim 11 as follows

line 1 erase the cross hatched " ~~material~~" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined -mercury-

line 3 erase the cross hatched " ~~material~~" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined -gold-

line 4 erase the cross hatched " ~~material~~" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined -mercury-.

A clean copy of amended Claim 11 is as follows:

11. In the handling of spilled mercury through transfer from the spillage location, the improvement comprising:

the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a gold that has a high affinity for said spilled mercury.

Amend claim 16 as follows:

Claim 16 line 3 erase the cross hatched "substrate" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined absorber .

A clean copy of amended claim 16 is as follows:

16. A transfer tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising:
a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being of a material including particles, woven and filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and,
a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage area.

Kindly add the following new claim.

17. The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising the steps of:
providing a deformable spillage area contacting member,
said member being of a material including particles, woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and said member having a deformable region and a contacting region and having coating of gold,
positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area , and,
moving said member over said spillage area.

The claims read on the specification and drawings as follows.

1 6. In the transferring of spilled mercury through

the use of an intermediate absorber

2 member for the spilled material,

3 the improvement comprising:

4 a deformable absorber member in a form of Figs.3A & 3B Figs 4A & 4B

at least one of a contacting quantity of elements 6 & 9 elements 20 & 21

5 particles and a filamentry arrangement and

the interstices of said absorber being coated element 7 element 7

6 with a thin coating of gold.

1 9. The improvement of claim 6 wherein the material

in said deformable absorber are Page 5 lines 4 - 7

2 of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.

1 10. The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber

is at least one braid of

2 copper wires. Page 6 lines 6 - 12

1 11. In the handling of spilled mercury

through transfer from the spillage location,

2 the improvement comprising:

3 the use of a deformable absorber member with a Figs. 4A & 4B element 20

thin surface coating of a gold that Page 5 lines 6 - 9

4 has a high affinity for said spilled mercury.

The claims read on the specification and drawings as follows.

16. A transfer tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising: Figs. 4A & 4B

a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being of a material including particles, woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and, elements 20 elements 11 &12 elements 21 & 22 Pages 5 & 6

a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage area. coating 7

17. The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising: Figs 4A & 4B

a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being of a material including particles, woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and, element 20 elements 11,12,21,22

a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage area.